

THE REHEARSAL.

LEGION Distracted, on the News of the late Victories. And for fear of the Occasional Bill, &c.

From Saturday August the 19th, to Saturday August the 26th, 1704.

Country-man. **H**OW now, Master Observer, why so Grumpy? I never saw thee in such a Humour all the Days of my Life. My Observer makes thee Grin, but it does not make thee Laugh. And it has been so with thee ever since the News of our Glorious Victories both by Land and Sea.

Obs. I must put a fair Face upon it. But it is no Glorious Victory to me. Nor to Thee neither, if Thou had'st Sense.

Country-m. Thou Mazes me, Master, Art thou Dreaming? Or has the Hag Rid thee last Night? Come, let me Understand a little.

Obs. Art thou not True to your Cause, to Restore our Common-Wealth? Whose Health thou hast Drank in many a Bumper, by the Name of old Puss, at our Calves Head Feasts.

Country-m. I hope you don't Mistrust me, Master; I'll spend the last Drop of my Blood for the Good Old Cause.

Obs. I doubt not thy Good Will Country-man, therefore I will open my Heart to thee. Thou know'st what Pains I have taken to Blacken the Present Ministry, I mean all of them that are not on Our side.

Country-m. Right! Master, That has been the sole Business of all thy Observators.

Obs. Besides, turning the Revolution upon the Foot of the Deposing Doctrin, and the Power of the People. Taking no Notice at all of the Abdication, upon which the Convention went. We spoke of this last Saturday; wherein I Answer'd fully whatever cou'd be Objected to the Contrary. Now, by this, Country-man, we Preserve our Right to Depose what King or Queen we Please. And have full Liberty and Property to Justifie the Glorious Revolution of Forty One. And if any Dare speak against it, even upon their Madding-Day, of the 30th of January, we Immediately Brand them as High-Fliers, Tories, and Tainty-Men, nay very Perkinites, and Enemies to the Revolution.

Country-m. There thou hast them Fast, my Boy.

Obs. Having Fixt this Foundation, We next come to Apply it. And that is done by Aspersing all of the Ministry that are not for our Purpose, and making them Odious to the Nation. And then there is a Ground for a

New Revolution, as it was Formerly, and Formerly. Unless the whole Ministry be put in to the Hands of our Friends, who know what to do with it.

For this End, thou know'st I have Bespatter'd the Bishops and Clergy, both Houses of Convocation, the House of Commons, the Council-Table, the Judges, and put them All into my List of Knaves, in my Observer, Vol. 2. N. 99. And likewise thou know'st how Villainously I have Treated the Duke of Marlborough, and Sr. George Rook, the Commanders in Chief both by Sea and Land. And then I Magnify'd the Heroical Achievements in the Last Reign, to Disparage them. And because the House of Commons pressed so hard the Bill against Occasional Conformity, we Legion'd and Million'd them to the Purpose all over the Nation. By this means we hop'd to Get a New Parliament, more to our own mind. And then how we wou'd have Bellow'd, and made Interest, to shew, That nothing was done either by Sea or Land. And therefore that it was Necessary the old Ministry and Generals shou'd be Employ'd, who had done such Wonders under K. William.

Now, Country-man, Consider what it is to be Disappointed of all these Glorious Expectations! To hear the Church-Party Boast, that more has been done in one Summer, under their Administration, than in all the Ten Years War before! Under a Queen of the Name of Stuart, than under a Foreigner! Under one English and Royal-Born, and an Heart Entirely English, who has Promis'd to Encourage and Maintain the Church of England

as by Law Establish'd; and upon Queen's Speech all occasions of Promotions to any to the Parliament. Feb. 27 Ecclesiastical Dignity, to have a 1702. very Just Regard to such, as are Eminent and Remarkable for their Piety, Learning, and Constant Zeal for the Church; that by this and all other Methods, which shall be thought Proper, it may be securely Transmitted and sealed to Posterity.

Now Men of Constant Zeal for the Church of England, as by Law Establish'd, will never think that it is an Encouragement to her, and a Proper Method to Transmit her Securely Settled, to Divest her of those Securities which the Law has already Given her: That is, the Corporation Act, and the Test Act, which De-

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barr all from Places of Power and Trust, who are not of her Communion.

Country-m. And how have we Got off from those Laws.

Obf. By a Notable Distinction. Is not a Man of such or such a Communion, while he is of it?

Country-m. Most Certainly, Sir.

Obf. Therefore, We go to Church, Receive the Sacrament upon our Knees, which we us'd to call Idolatry, and Conform to a Tittle with all the whole Liturgy, Rites and Ceremonies, which we Give as the Reasons of our Non-Conformity. Then who can say we are Non-Conformists! We are not surely so, at that Instant while we are Conforming. And so we are within the Letter of the Law, tho' we Return to our Conventicles next Day; And Rail as much at the Church as Ever.

Now the Constant Zealots for the Church Establish'd (whom the Queen has Promis'd to Maintain) call this an Eluding of the Law. Besides the vile Hypocrisy in this Practice. And therefore have brought in a Bill (which we have Twice Thrown out) to Explain those Laws, not to have Meant Occasional-Conformity only, but a Constant Conformity to the Church Establish'd. It being Impossible for those Laws to have any other meaning, than not to Trust those who were not Truly and Sincerely in the Interest of the Church Establish'd, with such Places of Power as to be Enabl'd to Destroy her.

As when we made Laws to Exclude the Malignants, and all Friends of the Anti-Christian Episcopal Hierarchy, in our Blessed Reign. We wou'd have Mumb'l'd the Rogues, if they had offer'd to have Eluded our Laws, by an Occasional and Hypocritical Conformity. We wou'd soon have let them know, what was the True Import and Meaning of the Law, with a Halter about their Necks.

Country-m. All in good time, Master.

Obf. Alas? When now? Country-man, These Victories in the Hands of Church-men, have stop't our Mouths. What shall we say? How shall we Rail at the Ministry next Session of Parliament? How do we know we shall Procure a New Parliament? In which of our Administrations can we Pretend the Publick Treasury was so Frugally and yet Honourably Manag'd? In supporting such vast Alliances, and Carrying our Arms into the Heart of Germany, where English Colours were Never seen before. And then the Successes—[Oh! That Torments our Souls] which has Attended all this! Then they'll be comparing this with the other sort of Successes which we had, when Foreigners Commanded our Troops, at Steenkirk, Landen, and along, &c. for Ten Years together. They'll mind Us of the Address made by the House of Lords to K. Will. That the Commander in Chief, under his Majesty, of the English Forces, should be a Natural-Born-Subject of his Majesty's. And Complaining of the Loss of Honour to the English Abroad, in the

Posts allow'd them, and Stipulated in Former Reigns, as well as Dishonour thereby to the Crown of England. And humbly Intreating that so many Foreigners shou'd not be Employ'd, particularly in the Tower of London over the Stores, Arms, and Office of Ordinance, &c. Of all which he took no Notice. The Foreigners still carry'd it. They'll say, That Foreigners will still employ Foreigners, and Trust them before the English. And thence Represent to Us the Happiness of the Crown being again Return'd to the True Line of the Senats, which we resolv'd to Extirpate, as was Nastily Discover'd in the Informations p. 134. Annex'd to the Account of the Rye-House Conspiracy. But the same Resolution was Renew'd, with Vows, by some of the Chiefs of Us, upon the Execution (which we call Martyrdom) of L. R. And I'll tell thee Country-man, We had it in full Scent, and cou'd hardly have been Disappointed, but for these, O these late Victories, which have broke all our Measures.

Ten to one, but the Bill against Occasional Conformity may Now Come on again, and be Carry'd. Which if it be not, the Corporation and Test Acts, the only things that now Hamper Us, are Gon for Ever. And Occasional Conformity, having been so oft Debated, and Nothing Enacted against it, will pass and be Hereafter Understood, as the True and Genuine Meaning of the Corporation Act, and the Test Act, and that Nothing more is Required by them. And then let the Constant Zealots see how their Church Establish'd will be secur'd and Transmitted to Posterity! You know there is an old saying, New Lords, New Laws. And that Every Dog has his Day.

Country-m. That is, Long looks for comes at Last. I like not these Delays and Hopes. I'd be Doing. Is there nothing now to be set Forward? Is your Heart in your Hose? Come Pluck up, Master, I'll stand by thee.

Obf. I am a little Down at present. But in my Next, I shall shew thee what is to be Done. And how our Matters are to be Order'd. I am Going to Council Learned in the Law. Therefore can stay no longer with thee Now.

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